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From: William Whitham [wwitham@comcast.net]
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2015 9:07 AM
To: Regreform, DOER (ENE)
Subject: PV Solar regulations reforms

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Thank you for this opportunity to feedback about our state regulations on Solar PV systems. In late October 2010 I was granted an occupancy permit for my new, very "green", home and we switched on my 5Kw PV solar system (MA CEC ID# CS2-C22943-03837). I had telephoned National Grid (my account # 13658-73008) before signing the contract to have the PV Solar system installed and was assured by the fellow who answered that, upon my request, they would send me a check for any credit balance I would ever have. At that time, I had about \$200 credit because I had needed to keep the electricity on for the builders but was living elsewhere, picking up my bills irregularly, and hate getting extra fees for late payments.

I am fiscally conservative and intuited that, over the course of a year, I would be generating more electricity than I use. In the Spring of 2011 I asked National Grid to pay me a check for my credit balance because I wanted my account to have a \$0.00 balance so that going forward my NG bill would accurately portray the ongoing balance between my consumption and production. I didn't get my check. I phoned them and was informed that because my account now had a *COGEN* tag on it, they would never send me a check for my money. They directed me to a fellow in a back office who explained to me, and sent me a copy of that part of the regulations, that National Grid has a "tariff" whereby they don't have to issue checks to reimburse producers for credit balances in their accounts.

This is my major objection. I do appreciate that NG, being now a for profit corporation rather than a public utility, doesn't want to issue checks every month to people like me, so I don't ask for that. However, my credit balance has now grown (after a sunny summer) to \$656. I'll eat into that a little bit during the three winter months but I'm sure every year my credit balance will continue to grow. Meanwhile, I'm not allowed the money my capital investment has earned?

I understand I could transfer my credit to another account in my same load zone, but I have no other NG accounts. I spoke with my neighbors and, while they're happy to accept my credit, they would only pay me back 50% of it's value; I reject that as unfair. I'm a reasonable and moderate person and all I ask for is my money back once and I'll deal with the consequences going forward. However, couldn't the regulations be changed to provide residential producers like myself an opportunity to cash their credit annually, or perhaps, every five years?

While I'm writing to you, there is one other lesser issue, the differential between the \$ per Kw hour NG will pay me for my production and \$Kwh they charge me for my consumption. In 2011 NG was charging me \$0.12 Kwh for the electricity I used vs. \$0.90 they paid me for the electricity I generated. Since then electricity rates have changed. Honestly, I've never been good with arithmetic and trying to compile the many various different charges on my NG bills to arrive at these comparable figures has now baffled me. I simply think that NG should be paying me at least slightly less than they charge me for juice.

Thank you again for your consideration and please feel free to email me back if you have any further questions etc.

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